

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 STR-01 OES-03 EB-07 COME-00

ACDA-05 SAM-01 IO-10 FEAE-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 /105 W

----- 124290

R 221501Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7402

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, AS

SUBJECT: WHITLAM VISIT TO FRG

SUMMARY: FRG FONOFF SOURCE HAS BRIEFED US ON THE VISIT OF THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS IN BONN FROM JANUARY 16-19. WHITLAM MADE QUITE AN IMPRESSION ON THE GERMANS, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE TOUGH POSITIONS HE TOOK ON MANY ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. FRG REPS WERE SURPRISED, IN
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DEALING WITH THE LEADER OF A WESTERN-STYLE INDUSTRIAL

DEMOCRACY, TO FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED, ON A WHOLE VARIETY OF ISSUES, WITH A TOUGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE "THIRD WORLD" LINE. END SUMMARY.

1. WHITLAM'S REVIEW OF POLITICAL ISSUES WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. SINCE HE HAD JUST COME FROM MOSCOW, THE GERMANS WERE INTERESTED IN HEARING HIS ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION THERE. WHITLAM TOLD THEM THAT THE SOVIETS HAD TAKEN PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THEIR CONTINUING DEVOTION TO A POLICY OF DETENTE. KOSYGIN, IN PARTICULAR, HAD REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO THIS THEME, SAYING THAT THE DENUNCIATION OF THE SOVIET-US TRADE AGREEMENT WAS AN ACTION FORCED BY A SPECIFIC SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND NOT A SYMPTOM OF SHIFTING WINDS IN POLICY. WHITLAM HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT BREZHNEV WAS GENUINELY ILL AND SAW NO EVIDENCE OF AN INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE.

2. THE SOVIETS HAD TRIED HARD, WHITLAM SAID, TO INSERT INTO THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE SOME MENTION OF THEIR PET PROJECT FOR A SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN ASIA. THE AUSTRALIAN SIDE RESISTED THIS PRESSURE SUCCESSFULLY. IN A SENSE, HOWEVER, THE COMMUNIQUE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD LOOK FOR WAYS TO SECURE PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WAS AN OFF-SHOOT OF THIS SOVIET FAILURE--A KIND OF SOP TO THE RUSSIANS IN WHICH, WHITLAM SAID, THE AUSTRALIAN SIDE SAW NO CONCRETE SIGNIFICANCE.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF EC MATTERS WITH THE GERMANS, WHITLAM STRESSED AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED UK MEMBERSHIP, SAYING THAT HE SAW NO ADVANTAGES FOR AUSTRALIA EMERGING FROM A UK WITHDRAWAL.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE NPT, WHITLAM SURPRISED THE GERMANS BY EXPRESSING HIS CONCERN OVER FRG FAILURE TO RATIFY (N.B. FRG HAS IN FACT RATIFIED THE NPT BUT IS AWAITING RESOLUTION OF ITALIAN PROBLEM WITH SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT BEFORE DEPOSITING ITS INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION). WHITLAM DID NOT ENDEAR HIMSELF TO THE GERMANS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01076

WHEN HE SAID THAT THE

LEADING AXIS POWERS FROM WORLD WAR II, GERMANY AND
JAPAN, WERE PLAYING HARD TO GET ON THIS ISSUE.

5. IN HIS DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC ISSUES, BOTH WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMAN INDUSTRY AND OF THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT, WHITLAM LAID GREAT EMPHASIS ON AUSTRALIA'S
DETERMINATION TO PROTECT ITS NATIONAL SUBSTANCE
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AGAINST INROADS BY FOREIGN CAPITAL. IN MANY FIELDS, PARTICULARLY ENERGY, THE PROFITS CARRIED AWAY BY FOREIGN FIRMS HAD BEEN ALTOGETHER TOO LARGE. AUSTRALIA WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE ENERGY FIELD, HE SAID, AND IN OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS THE CONTROLS WOULD BE INCREASED. GERMANS HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THEIR REMONSTRATIONS--INCLUDING THOSE FROM BUSINESSMEN WITH WHOM WHITLAM MET ON JANUARY 16--FELL ON LARGELY DEAF EARS.

5. WHITLAM SEEMED OBSESSED WITH EC BEEF BAN AND, WITHOUT BEING FULLY EXPLICIT, SEEMED TO HIS GERMAN HOSTS TO ESTABLISH A CONNECTION BETWEEN ITS REMOVAL AND ANY WILLINGNESS ON PART OF AUSTRALIA TO COOPERATE IN URANIUM PRODUCTION (URANIUM ASPECT OF VISIT IS COVERED IN SEPTEL).
HILLENBRAND

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